Hydro-power potential in Assam

1864. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as part of exploration of hydro potential in the Assam region, the Lower Kopili Hydro Electric Project (150 MW) and Upper Barapani Hydro Power Project (60 MW) were identified; and

(b) if so, by when these two projects would be commissioned to ease the power crisis in Assam State, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Lower Kopili HEP (150 MW): North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) prepared the Feasibility Report in October, 2002 and obtained commercial viability of the Project from the Central Electricity Authority in February, 2003. The project area falls within Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council and N.C. Hills Autonomous Council of Assam. In spite of several rounds of discussions with the various stake holders, the implementation Memorandum of Understanding between Government of Assam and NEEPCO could not be signed upto now and the project could not be taken up.

Upper Borpani HEP (60 MW): The project involves Inter-State aspects with Meghalaya, who have not given their concurrence to Assam for taking up the project.

Use of Assam Coal for Power Generation

1865. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NTPC has agreed to use Assam coal for its Kumguri, Salakati NTPC project;

(b) whether Government have examined the possibility of transportation of coal, in an alternative way, in extreme cases, through the river Brahmaputra from Dibrugarh to Jogighopa to carry the coal rakes by ships for generation of power to the proposed 500 MW power project to be commissioned by NTPC at Kumguri, Salakati, which is expected to be commissioned by 2009; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?